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Leaha Capriotti Application

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Western University, LCAPRIOT@uwo.ca

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Leaha CAPRIOTTI (Department of French Studies, UWO), dir. S. Woodward

My MA thesis is based on the literature and cinematography that exists around the Cambodian Genocide, with a focus on film director and literary author Rithy Panh. How do survivors move forward with their lives after undergoing extreme trauma and watching their entire family be killed and waste away into nothingness? In Rithy Panh's memoir (*L'élimination*) he writes about his extreme melancholia, the pain of surviving the genocide and the grief that follows after losing everything. He highlights the missing images of his own life (his family) but also, within history itself. All of this manifests itself in his film (*L'image manquante*), where there are no "real" characters and only includes archival footage (images that are real and exist) and scenes with clay characters as avatars of Rithy and his family (entities that are constructed and cease to exist apart from in his mind)